



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at the Abita Springs Town Hall. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Council Members, Boudreaux, Patterson, Contois, Saussy and Templet were present.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Cunningham presented the July 2026 financial report. Overall, the funds reviewed were tracking favorably, with revenues exceeding expenditures in each fund for which both were reported. General Fund revenues were at 74% of budget compared to 53% in expenditures, and the \$120,000 transfer to the Utility Fund for debt service had been completed. The Police Fund was essentially at break-even. Utility Fund expenditures were at 61% of budget, with higher costs associated with gas, fuel, and sewer treatment. Infrastructure Fund activity continued to reflect expenditures related primarily to the wastewater treatment plant replacement. Public Works, Recreation, and Cemetery Funds were also operating with revenues in excess of expenditures, with Cemetery revenues benefiting from higher-than-expected plot sales. The Debt Service Fund reported revenues at 145% of budget. Although debt service payments and interest were not reflected in the July financial review, all scheduled payments through year-end, including the interest payment, have since been made.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Danette Jenkins reported that the wastewater treatment plant is complete and expected to begin operations in the coming weeks. Repairs to the Highway 36 primary well are expected to begin the week of September 14 and take approximately four to six weeks. Administration provided an update on the Washington-St. Tammany Electric (WSTE) franchise agreement, which became effective November 26, 2014, for an initial 12-year term. The agreement provides for an automatic 10-year renewal if, during the twelfth year of the initial term, the average monthly cost of 1,500 kWh charged to residential customers does not exceed by more than 15% the comparable rate charged by other regulated electric providers within the Town. Administration confirmed that WSTE's rates remain below those of competing providers and that the rate condition has been satisfied; therefore, the franchise agreement will automatically renew for an additional 10-year term. Alderman Saussy requested that Ms. Cunningham attend the next Town Council meeting so that he could discuss the financial information he will need as the Council considers the 2027 budget. The Board also discussed pursuing a \$20,000 impact fee study for roads and drainage, with funding options to be reviewed. The Events Department announced Autumn in the Park, scheduled for October 31 from 2:00–6:00 p.m. at Trailhead Park, featuring fall and Halloween activities. Traditional neighborhood trick-or-treating will continue, with a trunk-or-treat option also available.

MEETING MINUTES: Alderman Contois made a motion to accept the minutes from July 21, 2026, and August 4th, 2026, seconded by Alderman Patterson. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Alderman Templet made a motion to INTRODUCE 2026-09-01, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 556 AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, seconded by Alderman Saussy. The amendment would increase revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$125,000. for a capital outlay project for repairs and improvements to the Town Hall.

Alderman Saussy made a motion, seconded by Alderman Patterson, to adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, LOUISIANA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO OPT IN TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (GOHSEP) EXPEDITED TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TO WAIVE CERTAIN LOCAL LAND USE REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE TEMPORARY PLACEMENT OF MOBILE HOMES,

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, AND OTHER TEMPORARY HOUSING; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE REQUIRED WAIVER AND CERTIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

During public the public comment period, questions were raised regarding time limits and regulations for temporary trailers used as emergency housing. It was noted that temporary housing, including mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and other temporary housing, may be placed adjacent to a disaster survivor's damaged dwelling in accordance with ETHA program requirements. FEMA guidelines provide for a temporary housing period of approximately four to 18 months. The resolution waives applicable local land-use and permitting requirements for temporary housing under the program.

The motion passed unanimously: Yeas: 5 - Aldermen Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet; Nays: 0; Absent: 0; Abstain: 0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OR REPORTS: Stewart Eastman proposed a pilot program using full-depth reclamation with polymer stabilization to repair three streets. The estimated cost is up to \$200,000. The Board discussed researching local applications of the method and considering it for future road repairs and budget planning.

Bryan Gowland thanked current officials and candidates for their service and invited them to attend the Abita Springs Opry on September 19. He emphasized that the Opry is a non-political event and requested that it not be used for campaigning. He encouraged candidates to preserve Abita Springs' unique character, arts community, and small-town atmosphere and commended the Town's event staff and community events.

Sandra Slifer, with Keep Abita Beautiful, announced a September 12 litter cleanup along the riverbank beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Abita Trailhead as part of the statewide Love Our Waterways initiative. A schedule of future cleanup events will be announced. The next St. Tammany Parish hazardous waste collection day is scheduled for October 24, with reservations required.

Earl Carr expressed support for moving forward with impact fees and encouraged the Town to consider fees for streets, sewer, water, lighting, and parks and recreation in addition to roads and drainage. The Board discussed the distinction between impact fees and connection fees and the need for a study to determine appropriate fees.

Mr. Saussy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Patterson. All present were in favor.

Leanne Schaefer, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor